

Carlos D. Weber -
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This was November 9, 1942 on the road to Oran in Algeria by way through the town of St. Cloud. We had made an amphibious invasion the night before, the eighth of November, and not a shot was fired.

We were the First Battalion of the 18th Infantry Division. We were "C" Company of the First Battalion and our platoon was the third platoon. We were the point in this sector. No one had been there before us and not one of us had ever heard a shot fired in anger from the enemy or a shot fired by us at them. We were all equal in that respect regardless of rank or military status.

"C" Company had gathered and organized to march on the road to St. Cloud at daylight. My platoon would lead. I was a corporal or assistant squad leader of the 3rd squad. St. Reubens was the squad leader. Captain Ray Froncillo, was the company commander.

Just before the march on the road to St. Cloud began, the captain told me to take three men and travel seventy five or a hundred yards to the left of the road and parallel to it and to protect the marching column from any surprise attack from that side.

The march began and my small patrol went along on the left of the road as instructed, going over ditches and fences, across back yards and around objects too large to jump over. My instructions included my return to the column when my small patrol could no longer keep up with the column. I was to judge the time by looking towards the road and when I no longer could see the marching company I would come to the road and join them. The captain said he would know when to send another flanking patrol to replace us.

I could not see the marching company any more so I called my men and came toward the column of marchers on the road and when I reached the road I found that they were taking a break. A rest. The men were laying down or sitting on both sides of the road resting and the road was clear and empty of any traffic. I found that convenient for me to march with my three men to the front of the column to rejoin my squad and Sgt. Oscar Reubens. I did that.